

The School Library System Newsletter

May 2010

Pat's Desk Talk:

Taming the Maze

As I was getting ready to schedule my round of library visits for this year, I pulled out the list of places I visited in 2005 – my first year. It was time to start over at the top of the list again. I looked at the school names and I looked at the map. I looked again. I took a bright red marker and traced my route. I stood back and took another look. It looked as if I had been the little ball and someone had pulled back the pinball machine launcher and let 'er rip! I pinged and bounced all over the place. There was no rhyme or reason to any of it.

I also realized I followed the same zig-zag pattern the next few years with the rest of my visits. With the start of a new cycle of visits, it seems the perfect time to reorganize or to get organized period. Mary, Kenn, and I took the map of districts and broke it into 10 Circuits grouping districts by geographic proximity and number of school libraries in districts.

From here on out, we will set a date for each Circuit and spend a day visiting that area. The larger urban areas will obviously take multiple days. This will save miles, gas, time, and human energy. I should be able to get to all school libraries in a far shorter time span than it took me for the first cycle which should also improve communication and my understanding of each of your individual libraries.

I will begin using the new system this year. I will not be going in the order I used in 2005. It may take a bit for me to get to the school libraries I visited back then but I WILL get there and with this new system it will be far more organized. No more pinball machines for this kid!

These visits are separate from special visits to libraries when you request help with specific issues i.e.: weeding, collection development, curriculum, OPALS conversion, library design ideas, library program evaluations...

We are here to assist with anything you need. Please feel free to call.

Retirements

Linda Bluey, New York Mills

Nancy Noonan,
Fisher Elementary, Mohawk Central
School

Nina Pietrafesa, Benton Hall
Academy, Little Falls

Debbie White,
Waterville Jr./Sr. High School

Thank You from Pat

To the four amazing LMSs who are retiring this year, thank you for your years of service to the students in your districts. Thank you for sharing the joy of reading, for helping with assignments, for serving on committees, for listening

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to a million reasons why the book never made it back to the library, and for giving beyond the necessary. Appreciation isn't always forthcoming in our profession but know that what you did made a difference, that you ARE appreciated, and that you will be missed.

Wishing you the best in whatever lies ahead. May you enjoy every moment of your freedom from bell schedules and meetings. Enjoy and Good Luck!



Notes from Kenn:

End of the Year Wrap-Up

Wow! Was this ever a fast year! Seems like just yesterday school was starting and I received my first requests for the year. Now, it's time to wrap it up for another year. There are a couple of things I'd like to mention before the end of the year craziness really starts.

ILL Statistics

This is the first year with OPALS and my being able to get your statistics on my own. I can hear you cheering now knowing you don't have to worry about it! The only thing I will need you to tell me is if you filled any ILL requests that did not go through CIDER, i.e. requests from phone calls or emails. Any requests you received through CIDER are automatically counted.

Return Borrowed Items Before School is Out

Please be sure that all books and A/V materials borrowed through EILL have been returned to the SLS before school is out. I will be sending you weekly overdue notices to help identify items that need to be returned. As I've learned, getting things back from a student who has graduated or moved over the summer is very difficult! Thank you in advance for getting everything back before school is out.

CUT-OFF FOR EILL IS FRIDAY, MAY 14!!

This will be the last day you can send an EILL request for books or A/V materials to the SLS. Requests for articles will continue to be accepted until the end of school.

Borrowing & lending between schools will continue. Each school decides when to end loaning from their library.

Mary's Notes:

End of Year

It is hard to believe that we have reached the end of the school year. I have a (very few) reminders for you

- If you are interested in attending any of our summer workshops, please register as soon as possible. Some of the classes are already filled, and you may be place on a waiting list. We've had a good response from districts, and many teachers are taking advantage of these professional development opportunities.

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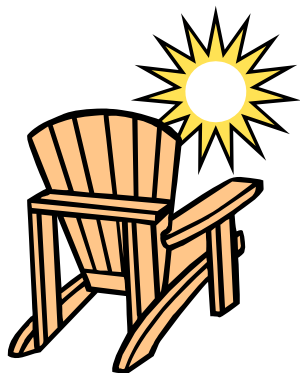
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•For those of you with CCD orders, please be certain that you have sent all of your packing slips to me and all of your records to Anne. The packing slips have been coming to me much more promptly this year – THANK YOU!

•Have your database order sheets been returned? I will be ordering the databases for all of our districts soon, and it is essential that we have the order sheets in place.

I hope you all have a very enjoyable and sun-filled summer!



Quick Tip from Pat: Out With the Old - In With the New

Wondering what to do with the books that have been donated to your school by some very wonderful people but they are now out of date? The books have a beautiful book plate in them dedicating them to the donor or in honor of a loved one and you feel too guilty to weed them. It feels like you are dishonoring someone's memory.

Here is a nice way around it that should keep everyone happy and your conscience at rest. Buy a current title on a similar topic and re-dedicate the book to the original donor or honoree. That way you are honoring the heart of the donation while also keeping your collection current.



Anne's Notes:

650 subfields

I've made up a list of 650 subfields that I frequently use. Hopefully, it will come in handy if you have to do any original cataloging.

X – General subdivision

- X Collectors and collecting
- X Statistics
- X Study and teaching
- X History
- X Social conditions
- X Social life and customs

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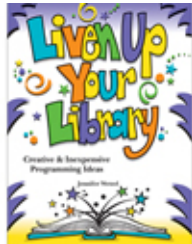
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V – Form subdivisions

- V Handbooks, manuals, etc.
- V Directories
- V Biography
- V Periodicals
- V Dictionaries
- V Maps
- V Catalogs
- V Miscellanea
- V Comic books, strips, etc.

New Books for May

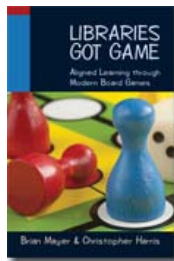


Live Up Your Library: Creative & Inexpensive Programming Ideas

Author: Jennifer A. Wetzel

Publisher: Upstart, 2009

Standards-based content offers creative themes that focus on a specific library skill. Chapters include detailed lesson plans, material and preparation lists, rubrics, and extension ideas, as well as reproducible activities.



Libraries Got Game: Aligned Learning through Modern Board Games

Authors: Brian Mayer & Christopher Harris

Publisher: ALA, 2010

Co-author Chris Harris will be presenting on this topic in our summer workshop on August 19. Explains how designer board games (not educational games) can become curricular staples for students of all ages. Includes information to initiate a board game project with direct links between board games and curriculum, suggestions for building a core collection, plus strategies for program development & implementation.



Twenty-First-Century Kids, Twenty-First-Century Librarians

Author: Virginia Walter

Publisher: ALA, 2010

Examines recent trends and challenges that have grown out of changes in educational philosophy and information technology such as: outcome-based planning, early literacy, homework centers in libraries, children's spaces.

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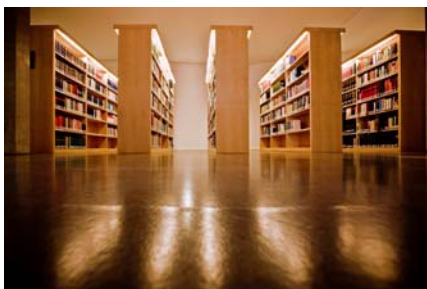
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The Early Literacy Kit: a Handbook and Tip Cards

Author: Betsy Diamant-Cohen & Saroj Nadkarni Ghoting **Publisher:** ALA 2010
Kit includes information for those training child caregivers about school readiness skills. Contains handbook with resources, 104 tip cards with coordinated activities, summary of important early literacy research.



SLS Periodicals

The School Library System Professional Collections includes subscriptions to nine periodicals. These magazines arrive at our offices, are reviewed by us, put on display, and eventually archived. We encourage you to check out what we have available for your use. With shrinking budgets it is an especially good time to consider borrowing the magazines. We would be happy to put them into a rotating circuit between schools, if any of you are interested. Now is the time to start planning for next

year; let us know if you would like to borrow any of the magazines.

Our list includes:

American Libraries
Booklist
Information Technology & Libraries
Library Journal
Library Media Connection
School Library Journal
School Library Media
Teacher Librarian
Young Adult Library Services

Nancy Noonan, Mohawk Central School:

After beginning my career in Kane, Pennsylvania as a High School Library Media Specialist, I came to Herkimer NY to work at the Educational Communications Center (formerly known as the Film Library, and the forerunner of our School Library System). I was there for two years, then offered a position as the elementary media specialist at Fisher Elementary in Mohawk. I wasn't sure whether to take the job or not - but my husband asked me to marry him - and so I took the job. We bought an old farmhouse in the country (quite the change for this "city" girl from Long Island) and spent the next several years (too many to count) restoring it. I am the proud parent of three boys: Shaun, who lives in Arlington, VA; Brett who is currently living in the Albany area; and Trevor, who is attending Brockport. My retirement plans include a trip to Ireland in the near future, spending more time

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with my friends, and spending more time
at Curves in Herkimer.

Spring/Summer Calendar

C3: May 20
Ad. Council May 20

*Using Network Technology to Reach
and Teach* July 13,14,15 (full)

Podcasting and Jing July 20 (full)
(opened second section – see August)

**Project Look Sharp: Integrating
Media Literacy & Critical
Thinking into the Curriculum**
July 22

**Visual Thesaurus: Virtual
Reference** July 27

SMART-4Day Intensive (full)
July 19,26,
Aug. 2, 9

**Media and SLS Administrator
Training** Aug. 6

So Many Books...So Little Time
Aug. 12

Podcasting & Jing: Section 2
Aug. 13

*Board Games for Learning & Why
We Need to be Part of the Digital
Universe (full)* Aug. 19

To register for workshops email
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